



International Rescue Committee
Pakistan Program
Annual Report 2003

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(Front Cover) Irrespective of age, the conflict in Afghanistan has affected many lives. Since 1979, Pakistan has provided refuge to about 3.4 million Afghans.

fighen girls attending tious at an IRC supported terms.





Afghan refugees receiving non-food items

Country Director's Message



Dear Friends

I am pleased to share this edition of our annual report with you. This report illustrates IRC Pakistan's program activities during the course of 2003.

2003 was a challenging transition for IRC Pakistan but is marked with great achievements, IRC Pakistan programs are at a crossroad after the separation of the IRC Pakistan/Afghanistan program in October 2002 following the mass repatriation of refugees from Pakistan and Iran. The ensuing ground situation in the region coupled with the crisis in Iraq necessitated IRC Pakistan to work with progressively diminishing resources to honor its commitment to the welfare of Afghan refugees and their safe return home. The Tripartite Agreement be tween UNHCR and the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan in March 2003 to repatriate all refugees from Pakistan within a period of three years presented further demands on our programs and efforts. With this in mind, IRC Pakistan reoriented and adapted its portfolio of programs to emphasize the facilitation and reintegration of Afghan refugees while meeting the needs of the remaining refugees in Pakistan. IRC Pakistan worked hand in hand with UN-HCR and other partners to support the return of 1.9 million Afghan refugees since the inception of the voluntary repatriation program in March 2002.

Our approach followed a path of investing our knowledge, experience, as well as the long standing relationship we developed with the Afghan refugees over the past 24 years to build a holistic

program that stems across the border to facilitate the return and reintegration. IRC Pakistan provided unremitting support to IRC Afghanistan's country program whose primary focus was on rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in Afghanistan.

Our Female Education Program (FEP) established a reintegration unit that works on both sides of the border to ensure a professional seamless repatriation of teachers and students and offers technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in Afghanistan. The relentless efforts culminated in a successful registration of all IRC schools with the Afghan Consulate in Peshawar which guarantee students' access to the appropriate grade when they repatriate to Afghanistan. The IRC FEP strengthened its ties with Afghanistan and achieved an effective skills-transfer by conducting an administrative and technical training for school principals and the personnel of the Ministry of Education in Kabul at the request of the Afghan Deputy Minister of Education. The FEP's achievements progressed to witness the launching of the IRC psychosocial training manual in refugee schools in different languages for the frst time in the history of our operation. This is the frst innovative approach towards addressing the children's psychosocial needs in classrooms.

On a different front, our Health Care and Water and Sanitation programs put more emphasis on capacity development of its staff and community health volunteers to empower them with the necessary skills to serve their country when they repatriate. Meanwhile, essential health care services continued throughout IRC's eleven basic health units to combat diseases. In 2003, Malaria incidence reduced to its lowest level in three years in Hangu-Thal camps and surrounding villages. The immunization and the Reproductive Health coverage was extended by establishing an additional Emergency Obstetric Care Clinic in Thal which increased the number of deliveries managed by IRC in the region to 33%, including 30% from surrounding local community villages.

Building on its expertise in protection, education and social services, IRC Emergency Response team initiated a new "Women's Empowerment" program to address the physical and psychosocial needs of women and children in refugee camps. The program provides a wide range of services including counseling in addition to literacy, reproductive health and vocational training.

The IRC protection team worked towards creating an operational environment that is free of abuse and exploitation and worked to streamline important protection issues into our assistance programs. The protection units priorities include program monitoring, training of staff and refugees, as well as reviewing assistance project design to ensure respect of refugees rights and dignity.

In 2004, IRC Pakistan is preparing for the numerous challenges ahead with the changing operational environment and refugee repatriation. We hope for improved access to continue our protection and assistance to the refugees and support their smooth return the particular offices in Peshawar, Kohat, ay well as our new affice in Quetta.

nt take this top ortunity to extend IRC Pakistania approciation to our donors, partners, authorities in Pakistan and Afghanistan without whose support and collaboration our effort would have been in vain. The support, encouragement and guidance of the IRC staff at head quarters in the US and UK was key to our success. The delegation of the IRC Board represented by the IRC President Dr. George Rupp, Ambassadors Robert Oakley, Jean Kennedy Smith, Winston Lord, and Vice President for Board Administration and Relation, Ellen O'Connell to Pakistan and Afghanistan in September 2003 was a recognition by IRC senior management of the importance of our operation at this critical time of transition.

Mustafa A.M. Elkanzi June 6,2004



Mission of IRC

Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is a leading nonsectarian, voluntary organization providing relief, protection and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. The IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity and self-reliance. This commitment is reflected in well-planned global emergency relief, rehabilitation services, resettlement assistance and advocacy for refugees.



About the IRC

The International Rescue Committee was founded at the request of Albert Einstein to assist victims of Hitler's policies. Since 1933 IRC has provided hope and humanitarian aid to refugees and other victims of oppression and violent conflict around the world. At the outbreak of an emergency, we provide sanctuary and lifesaving assistance - rapidly delivering critical medical and public health services, shelter and food. Once a crisis stabilizes, we set up programs to enable refugees to cope with life in exile. Through training, education and income-generating programs, we help refugees acquire new skills to become selfsufficient. The IRC is a global organization in every respect, and our staff comprises citizens of 40 countries. Institutional, government and individual donors from around the world support our work.

Where We Work

We serve refugees and displaced people in Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Chechnya/ Ingushetia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Croatia, East Timor, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Macedonia, Pakistan, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States.

IRC employees distributing blankets to refugees

At present there are over 1.6 million refugees dwelling along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, in NWFP and Balochistan. The IRC manages camps, distributes food and non-food items, provides assistance in primary health care, water supply, sanitation, waste disposal, education, teacher training, capacity building, protection, durable solutions and income-generating projects.



Our Vision in Pakistan

IRC seeks to provide well-planned assistance and protection to the Afghan refugees. We work towards building capacity of refugees to improve their lives in Pakistan and to ensure seamless repatriation and reintegration into Afghanistan. IRC aims to explore ways and means to provide assistance to the local host communities affected by the presence of the refugee population.

About IRC in Pakistan

The IRC began assisting Afghans 24 years ago when the Soviet invasion resulted in a mass influx of refugees. Stretching from Balochistan to North West Frontier Province (NWFP) the IRC provides direct assistance and works through implementing partner NGOs to help thousands of Afghan refugees. In 1999, a severe drought in Afghanistan prompted more refugees to stream into Pakistan in search of food and water. The IRC launched new emergency programs in camps and settlements to meet the lifesaving needs of the uprooted. The U.S. and Allied Forces military campaign in Afghanistan following September 11, 2001 sent a new wave of refugees to Pakistan, bringing 65,000 more under IRC's direct care. The IRC provided emergency assistance to the newly arrived refugees accommodated in the new and old camps in NWFP.

The Tripartite Agreement signed between UNHCR and the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan envisions the repatriation of all Afghan refugees to Afghanistan by the end of March 2006. UNHCR's voluntary repatriation program has helped about 1.9 million Afghans to go home from Pakistan in the past two years. The IRC supports UNHCR's effort in facilitating this process and continues to supply humanitarian assistance to those who remain in Pakistan.



Gula Jan attends school in a refugee camp in Pakistan. He hopes to continue his education upon return to Afghanistan.

Meeting Emergency Needs

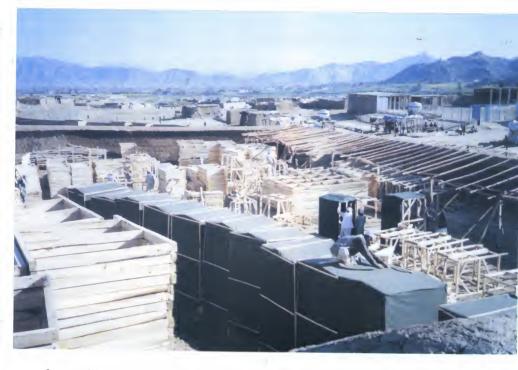
The basic necessities of life such as water, food and sanitation are often taken for granted by most. But for the thousands of Afghan refugees settled in the various camps throughout Pakistan, the provision of such facilities could be the determining factor between life and death. IRC Pakistan's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is responsible for providing the newly arrived refugees with clean drinking water, food rations, sanitation facilities and non-food items including clothing and blankets. Besides this the ERU is responsible for running the Women's Empowerment Project (WEP), which strives to improve the mental and physical health of the vulnerable Afghan refugee women.

IRC is engaged in the water supply and sanitation activities in Basu Camp since the inception of the camp in November 2001. Initially when the camp was established IRC provided safe and potable water through water tankers that supplied 104,000 liters daily distributing 20 liters per person per day. With the construction of a 321 feet deep well and an accompanying water supply system, IRC is now providing more than 25 liters of water per person per day for the entire camp population of 5,300 individuals.

Providing food to the newly arrived refugees living in Basu and Shalman camps is undertaken by IRC in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP). IRC distributes WFP provided food items to the entire population of Basu and Shalman camps on a monthly basis. In 2003, the IRC distributed an average of 285 metric tonnes of WFP food to 15,500 individuals per month. The food basket consisted of wheat flour, pulses, edible oil and saft.







Construction of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines in an Afghan refugee camp. IRC provides health and sanitation facilities to the refugees in Basu and Shalman Camps. IRC constructed 280 VIP latrines for refugee families in Basu Camp in 2003. In Shalman Camp 30 solid waste disposal sites, 1,807 garbage cans (I) per family) and 20 wheelbarrows were distributed to ensure that the refugees are able to maintain hygienic and sanitary living conditions in the camp. Through active community participation and delegation of responsibility for future repair and maintenance, IRC ensures the sustainability of the project. IRC carried out awareness campaigns in the camps to impart hygiene education and explain the dangers of poor sanitation and improper waste

In order to ensure that women in the camps are taken care of mentally and physically, the Women's Empowerment Project (WEP) was initiated in March 2003 in Shalman, Basu and New Shamshatoo camps. The refugee women attending the Women's Empowerment Centers can now stitch their own clothes, handle sewing machines and other sewing tools. The WEP through its self-reliance initiative is providing psychosocial counseling, lessons in Reproductive Health, skills enhancement sessions in vocational training and basic literacy to Afghan refugee women. A total of 377 vulnerable women directly benefitted from these sessions. The WEP also provides day care centers for children accompanying the women attending WEP sessions. In 2003, a total of 147 children were registered with the day care centers in the three camps.



Providing the Opportunity to Succeed

Through implementing effective and relevant educational services in target locations, IRC has been improving the quality of life for conflict-affected Afghan refugees, especially girls and women living in Pakistan thereby closing the gender gap, IRC has enabled these children and their teachers to serve as future leaders and professionals after their return to Afghanistan. The Female Education Program (FEP) seeks to provide access to basic quality education to those in need. FEP has forged strong regional linkages with IRC Afghanistan's education program and the Afghan Ministry of Education to facilitate the refugees' safe return to their homeland where they can continue to access quality education.



Young Afghan boys are also provided education under the Female Education Program. For the first time IRC unveiled its educational services to Balochistan in the refugee village settlements of Saranan and Surkhab. Presently 850 secondary school students in three IRC supported schools are receiving education.



In 2003, the Female Education Program provided access to quality education for approximately 19,320 students of which 66 percent were girls. A total of 833 Afghan and Pakistani teachers (64 percent females), employed by IRC are assisting these children in the classrooms. IRC provides material, financial and technical support to 38 regular schools, 55 home-based schools and nine literacy classes throughout NWFP



The Consular General of the Afghan Consulate in Peshawar is honoring IRCS Ms. Fareeha Popal with a Certificate of Merit for her contributions to refugee education. In 2003, IRC supported schools were the first refugee schools in Pakistan to be recognized by the Afghan Ministry of Education resulting in refugee students easily continuing their education upon their return to Afghanistan.



"We have many schools here educating Afghan refugee children but not all of them are providing education according to the curriculum set by the Ministry of Education in Afghanistan.IRC sponsored schools have always been in line with the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education and follow the approved curriculum."

- His Excellency, Haji Abdul Khaliq Farahi, General Consul of Afghanistan in Peshawar

FEP presented their teacher training, psychosocial and subject matter trainings in a three-day workshop in Kabul convened by the Ministry of Education. The objective of the workshop was to establish working groups to review existing teacher training manuals for Afghan education in order to develop a standard for teacher training. IRC is the only organization with developed teacher training resources for the science subjects of the secondary school level. IRC also successfully developed and piloted a 44-day teacher-training program. This pre-service training targets new and inexperienced teachers. In the summer of 2003, 20 female graduates of grade 12 completed this two-month training.





Those Who are Left Behind

The daycare center is full of children's laughter. In the corner is a little girl sitting quiet and unmoved by the toys and activities. Her name is Fatima and her father is one among the many casualties of the Afghan war. The 12 year old girl is just one of the many cases that had been referred to the counselors at the Women's Empowerment Project (WEP). During the wars in Afghanistan, many lives were lost, many men were killed and the children left behind were often forgotten. The story of Fatima illustrates how IRC's WEP is helping those who are left behind.

The WEP counselor, Rabeea Hadi, who was involved in counseling the young girl, narrates her story:

Upon her first visit to my office, she would not shake my hand and pulled

away from my attempts to welcome her. She seemed to be acutely depressed and her mother complained that she would cry all the time and had become increasingly insecure. She was also suffering from sleep and appetite disorders and feared social gatherings. The girl's mother explained that after her husband's death she noticed the changes in Fatima and that the deterioration of her mental state was now affecting her physically as she had stopped eating and sleeping properly.

It was decided that regular counseling sessions would be needed to help the girl live a normal life. I would invite Fatima to visit me in the day care center and encouraged her to sit and participate with the other children in various activities. At first she was not interested

in socializing with other children but after some days she made efforts to play with the other children. The time came eventually when she opened up to me and expressed her fears and grief. This was the turning point, as she acknowledged that she was scared and feared the presence of other people. It was discovered that her sorrow over the loss of her father rendered her insecure. I encouraged her to have contact with other children and to take her time in building the courage to interact with others. Numerous sessions were held afterwards and today Fatima is a normal girl who is able to do what most children do naturally - play.

Helping to Build a Future

The class has ended and as the students make their way out, one young girl stays behind to ask the teacher about tomorrow's assignment. The girl is Liza, 18, and she is among the 15 Female Education Program (FEP) graduates awarded a scholarship by IRC to study at Preston University for a one year diploma course in Information Technology (IT).

Liza's family is among the many that were forced to flee Afghanistan in search of a more secure place to live. Liza, who comes from Paktia in Afghanistan, was only eight when her family left the country in search of peace and security. She clearly remembers all the difficulties her family went through while migrating and starting a new life in neighboring Pakistan. When asked about leaving Afghanistan, Liza explains with sadness in her eyes her family's struggle in coming to Pakistan.

"We found life in a new country very difficult as compared to that in Afghani-

stan. We left all our assets back at home and had to restart life from scratch."

Living conditions for Liza's family like many other refugee familes are still not appropriate in Afghanistan. The family is indecisive about returning to their country. They will once again have to start building their life from scratch in Afghanistan as they did in Pakistan ten years ago.

Liza, who was in school in Kabul, continued her education in Bibi Zainab School in Peshawar, supported by FEP. She still remembers the way teachers at school treated them with grace and kindness. When asked about her memories of school, Liza exclaims with happiness "Those were the best memories of my life."

Liza finished high school last year. She would have been one of the thousands of Afghan refugee girls and boys who did not have any opportunities of formal education beyond grade 12 of

school, in Pakistan, if FEP had not provided these scholarships.

A flash of apparent excitement appears on Liza's face when she is asked about the one-year course she is attending at the Preston University. "I always liked computers and often wondered whether I will be able to pursue computer sciences as a career." Liza was among the first students who enrolled for the scholarships in Information echnology after the announcement by FEP. Liza further adds, "I want to continue studying computer sciences and one day serve my country as a computer specialist."

When asked about her future Liza expresses her desire to return to her country after completing the course. "The diploma will help me get a job with a governmental or non governmental agency. After we are settled I will join the university and do a Masters in Computer Sciences and higher" she discloses confidently.





Afghan refugees attending an IRC training on human rights.

Assisting Refugees the 'Right' Way

Developments in Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2003 created more opportunities for the Protection Unit to incorporate protection through all its programs and train IRC staff and Afghan refugees on human rights.

Through its Camps Assessment Project that was initiated in 2002, the Protection Unit conducted evaluations in 41 refugee camps where IRC operates. Protection concerns such as camp security, domestic violence, abuse, inadequate access to basic services includence.

ing inability to reclaim occupied property and obstacles to return were identified. Protection staff in accordance with confidentiality protocols shared this information, as necessary, with relevant IRC programs, other NGOs and UNHCR for possible intervention.

One of the main aims of the Protection Unit is to promote awareness of protection issues by training IRC staff. This ensures that they respect the rights of their beneficiaries and are better able



to refer human rights concerns they identify through the course of their work to the Protection Unit. The unit conducted human rights protection training sessions in English, Pashto and Urdu for refugees and field staff from IRC as well as its implementing partner NGOs.

In June 2003, the Protection Unit assumed responsibility for implementation of IRC's "Policy Against Abuse and Exploitation of Beneficiaries" to create a favorable and positive environment for the refugees. Protection staff worked jointly with IRC Pakistan's other programs to ensure that staff and beneficiaries are aware of the Policy and know how to raise concerns.

The Protection Unit continued to assist in writing and reviewing IRC Pakistan project proposals to incorporate human rights principles. In 2003, for example, concerted efforts led to continued funding for IRC Women's Empowerment Centers in the new refugee camps. The Protection Unit also continued to provide support to IRC Pakistan's Durable Solutions Project, established in 2000, that worked to identify, assist and protect at-risk Afghan refugees, particularly those women without effective male support.

Trainees participating in IRC Protection training. One of the tools used in these training sessions is an activity, which is used as an icebreaker involving a stick. All of the participants use their fingertips to balance the stick and move it up and down as a collaborative effort. The participants by working together as a team realize the importance of teamwork and how unity and cohesion is a necessity in order to protect human rights and achieve protection objectives.



Durable Solutions Project

UNHCR recognized the continued need this year for the Durable Solutions Project to assist vulnerableAfghan refugees towards a durable solution, i.e., repatriation to Afghanistan, or resettlement to a third country.

The International Rescue Committee maintained and developed its outreach network of 13 local NGOs in the NWFP identifying vulnerable Afghan refugees and their families and referring them to other NGOs, IRC projects and UNHCR for medical, counseling, educational, vocational and legal assistance or potential third country resettlement.



For the past two decades the IRC Water Supply and Sanitation Program has been providing services to 400,000 Afghan refugees in 68 refugee camps of NWFP. With community participation, capacity building, gender equity, mobilization and development of local resources being the essential themes, IRC is committed to enhancing the health status of refugee population by ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation facilities. The program activities stretch over Hangu, Kohat, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts and to the camps in Kurram, NorthWaziristan, SouthWaziristan and Orakzai agencies.

Since its inception the program activities mainly focused on relief and humanitarian assistance with much of the financial and technical support provided by the external sources. With the formation of a new government inside Afghanistan and the Tripartite Agreement signed between the governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan and UNHCR, there has been a shift in program strategy from relief and assistance to capacity building and self-reliance of refugees.



IRC carries out deep drilling operations in those areas where the water table is too low. IRC drilled 88 boreholes in the districts of Hangu, Kohat, Bannu, and Dera Ismail Khan and the camps in Kurram and North Waziristan agencies. Each borehole has the capacity to provide water to 500 individuals. 137 hand pumps were installed and 300 repaired in areas throughout NWFP. IRC also takes care of operation, maintenance and major repairs of tube wells situated throughout NWFP in various refugee camps. In 2003, 10 tube wells were developed in these assigned locations.



Refugee children enjoying the water provided by a shallow well developed by IRC. Refugees provided labor by digging the shallow well while IRC provided technical assistance in designing and installation. Each shallow well provides water to 30 families or approximately 200 individuals. In 2003, 42 shallow wells were constructed in the target areas. IRC also maintains the already dug community shallow wells by putting in rings, aprons and proper flooring to improve the hygienic conditions within and around the wells as well as prevention of contamination from outside. IRC strives to identify and minimize the risks and sources of outbreak of waterborne diseases for the initiation of prompt corrective measures before the occurrence of an epidemic.

IRC employees providing skill training in water supply to refugees. Due to the ebbing external financial support, IRC diversified its services in 2003. It not only provides water supply and sanitation services but has also taken the initiative in including skill training for refugees, motivation of local communities and enhancement of their technical and managerial capacity. Water Management Committees within each camp have been set up to allow refugees to make decisions regarding water management and distribution. Each committee contains 14 members; each representing a sector of the camp community. All these activities have been implemented strategically as a measure to phase out as well as to prepare the refugees for their safe and respectable return to their country.







A Pakistani boy receiving medical attention at an IRC BHU. The Health Care Program focuses on providing services not just for the refugees but in some locations the host population also benefits from the BHUs and EmOC services. In 2003, IRC's Emergency Obstetric Care units handled 2,412 deliveries. About 30 percent of the women receiving EmOC facilities were Pakistani. When a deadly episode of Leishmania broke out it not only affected the refugees but also the host population and IRC treated both. As a precautionary measure IRC distributed 5,878 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) in 10 refugee camps.

Refugee women receiving maternal/child and hygiene education at a health education workshop. This year the emphasis of the IRC's Health Care Program was to increase the accessibility of health care services to the most vulnerable groups of the population i.e. women and children. For this reason Reproductive and Maternal Child Health care is addressed under the Program and in 2003, 13,848 health education sessions were taught to over 90,000 participants. Providing training to pregnant women for antenatal and postnatal care and importing knowledge about healthy feeding habits is also facilitated under this program. This year 4,096 women received training in antenatal and postnatal care.





Polio drops being administered to a refugee child. A Polio Campaign was conducted in September/October of 2003 in which 125,531 doses of polio vaccine were given to children under five. IRC also provides vaccination to children less than five years of age and women aged 15 to 49 years under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI). In 2003, 4,410 children under the age of 12 months were administered complete series of childhood immunizations while 3,740 pregnant women were given tetanus toxide vaccines in Collaboration with UNICEF and Government of Pakistan.

Members of health committee attending a meeting to discuss health concerns. To enhance community participation, health committees established by IRC in the late 1980's learly 1990's meet every two months to review the Program plan and activities. These committees which consist of 14 to 15 members are encouraged to include their thoughts in the planning and implementation of the health activities within their respective camps. The health committee meetings were found very helpful and effective in improving the relationship between IRC and the community.







IRC Board delegation visiting the UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation Center near Peshawar during their visit to Pakistan in September 2003.



IRC President George Rupp (left) & Winston Lord, Co-Chairman (right), visiting an IRC supported school for Afghan refugees in Peshawar.



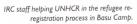




Eric Van der Lee from Stichting Vluchteling being greeted by IRC staff at Oblan Camp.



Presentation to Pakistan government officials by IRC at KurramAgency. Seen in photograph are Shakeel Durrani, former NWFP Chief Secretary (center - front row) and Onder Yucer, UNDP Resident Representative (left - front row).







Frank Broadhurst, from IRC NY Technical Unit along with IRC staff conducting a training on monitoring enviornmental health services .



IRC female staff registering refugees for food distribution at Basu Camp.





IRC Donors & Expenditure

The IRC Pakistan Program is grateful for the donors' support without which our work would not be possible. Generous funding from several donors enabled IRC to provide a variety of vital programs and assistance to Afghans in 2003. They are.....

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

World Food Programme (WFP)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Stichting Vluchteling (SV)

Refugee Education Trust (RET)

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Women's Commission (WC)

European Commission (EC)

Johnson & Johnson (J&J)

The MacArthur Foundation

And others



Expenditure FY 2003 Sector-Wise Breakdown

Protection Program

Water Supply & Sanitation

Health Care Program

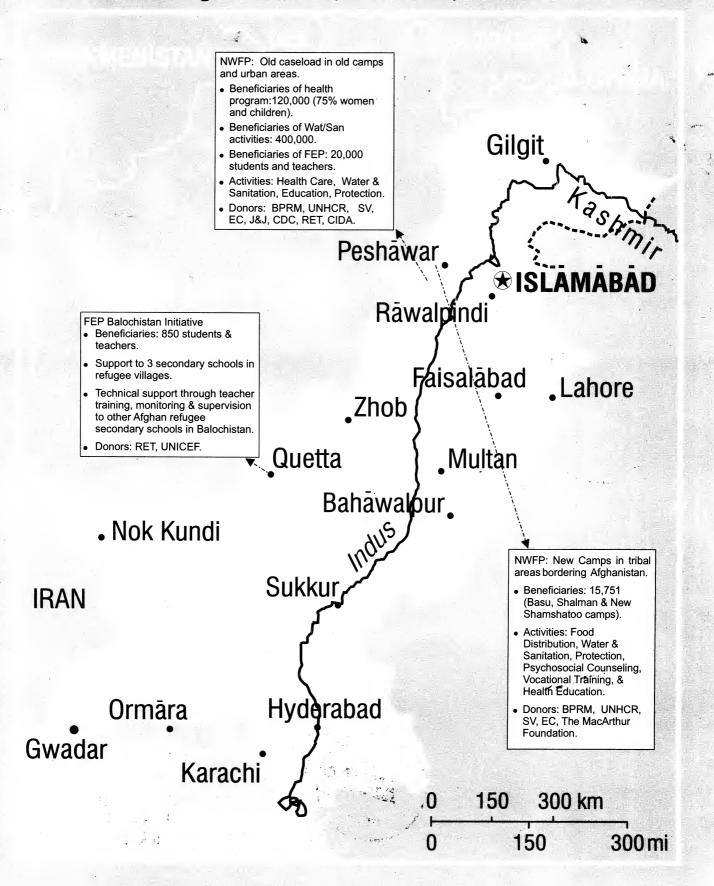
Operational Costs

Emergency Response 16%

Education Program 38%



IRC Pakistan Program Activities, Beneficiaries, Locations and Donors



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